

ANNUAL REPORT

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS



WELCOME

Missouri Agricultural Education

Together we are:

- Growing wise and informed consumers
- Assisting with workforce development
- Meeting the needs of traditional and non-traditional agricultural education students
- Helping students develop practical and leadership skills



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Missouri Team Ag Education Partner Organizations

Missouri FFA Association

Missouri FFA Alumni & Supporters

Missouri FFA Foundation

Missouri Professional Agricultural Student Organization

Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association

Missouri Young Farmers & Young Farm Wives

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● DIRECTOR'S DESK

The future of Missouri Agricultural Education starts with a plan. Since the late 1990's, Missouri Agricultural Education has been guided by the strategic plan, "Reinventing Agricultural Education for the year 2020." Needing to reevaluate our priorities and establish a new guiding document, representatives from education, governmental agencies, agricultural business, and industry, along with other stakeholders, came together to uncover the key issues facing agricultural education in Missouri. The result was four key priorities and defining themes outlined in the "Missouri Agricultural Education Five Year Strategic Plan." A copy of the plan can be found on the DESE Agricultural Education website at <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/career-education/agricultural-education>.

The plan's key priorities will be put to action through the Missouri Agricultural Education Vision and Mission and ultimately intend to prepare students for a lifetime of career success and informed choices

in the global world of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources.

With this goal in mind, Missouri Agricultural Education Key Priorities for 2024-2029 are:

1. Comprehensive Reach of Agricultural Education Programs
2. Quality Curriculum and Resources
3. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Literacy
4. Quality Instructors and Instruction

Now is the time to put these key priorities into action. We're currently working to create further goals and action steps before meeting with key stakeholders to assist with accomplishing those priorities.

Our challenge is to grow wise and informed consumers, assist with workforce development, meet the needs of traditional and non-traditional agricultural education students, and help students develop practical and leadership skills. While these challenges are not easy tasks, we embrace each one with your help so that we can accomplish our vision and strategic plan goals.

Have a great year and enjoy this 2023 Annual Report!

OUR MISSION

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.



Keith Dietzschold



**Director,
Agricultural Education
Missouri Department
of Elementary and
Secondary Education**

● SCHOOL-BASED



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



CLASSROOM / LABORATORY

Through classroom / laboratory instruction, agricultural education students use unique problem-solving skills.



SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Ag education students gain hands-on experience outside the classroom through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development activities through involvement in FFA, PAS, Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives and MVATA promote personal skill development.



Our Vision

Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture and natural resources in advancing personal and global well-being.

Secondary Education at a Glance

- **356** Missouri agricultural education programs.
- **30,620** Students enrolled in Missouri agricultural education programs.
- **5,248** High school agricultural education graduates in 2021.

● GIVING CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

Ensuring the future of Missouri Agriculture

Education requires securing the necessary partnerships and funding to achieve our key priorities. To achieve that, the Missouri FFA Foundation was incorporated in the summer of 2021.

The Foundation spent its first year creating organizational policies and obtaining sponsorships and donations to provide a little more than \$31,000 in grants and support to the Missouri FFA Association and its members.

During the Missouri FFA Foundation's second year we've continued enhancing the organizational structure by receiving our IRS designation as a 501(c)3 non-profit, creating policies that allow us to accept estate and individual donor designated gifts, growing the foundation board, designing a formal sponsorship program, strengthening relationships with long time ag education supporters, and forming relationships with new supporters. This year, the foundation also awarded \$25,000 in SAE grants to FFA members and around

\$11,000 in grants to agricultural education classes and FFA Chapters for classroom needs and service projects. In addition, more than \$161,000 in support has been generated for "Team Ag Ed" which includes Missouri FFA Association, Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, Missouri Professional Agriculture Students Organization, and Missouri Young Farmers & Young Farm Wives.

As the Missouri FFA Foundation enters year three, we are positioned to leap. In mid-September, we launch the Golden Owl Award® recognizing seven outstanding Missouri Agricultural Educators. With funding from the State of Missouri, we will start a Teacher Education and Training Grant Program and the Horizon and the Rising Sun Grant Programs to disperse hundreds of thousands of dollars to local schools to strengthen, enhance or even establish new agriculture education departments



Heather Dimitt-Fletcher



**Executive
Director
Missouri FFA
Foundation**

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and programs. Grant programs supporting students' SAE projects, FFA Chapter service projects, and agriculture education classroom needs will continue, along with support for Team Ag Ed.

Agriculture Education and FFA in Missouri have increased by 33% in the past decade. The goals of Missouri's agriculture industry require continued growth. That growth means our Team Ag Ed organizations will need more funding than ever to support innovative programs; ag teacher recruitment and retention; and quality curriculum, resources, facilities, and equipment. To explore ways to support this growth through the Missouri FFA Foundation, email heather@missouriffa.org.

GROWING LEADERS



● MISSOURI FFA ASSOCIATION



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Missouri Agricultural Education Named National Winner for the NASAE National Innovation Award for Drive Your Tractor to Work Day / Ag Career Day

582 American FFA Degree Recipients the most of any state in the nation

35 Chapters received a 3-Star Rating the highest chapter rating to be earned

4 National Proficiency Award winners

Emily Hoyt, Audrain Co. R-VI
Justin Duenke, Audrain Co. R-VI
Trenton Jones, Higginsville
Trent Dowell, Gallatin

Average chapter size reaches 86 members an all-time high



356 Missouri FFA chapters

578 agricultural education teachers

26,830 members in Missouri

11th in national FFA membership

TOP 5 SAEs

1. Food Service —Placement
2. Animal Systems —Placement
3. Agribusiness —Placement
4. Beef —Ownership
5. Power, Structure / Technology Sytem —Placement

\$3,589

Average
SAE-Generated
Labor Income
Per Student

\$67,328,443

Total SAE-Generated
Student Labor Income

LEARNING TO DO. DOING TO LEARN. EARNING TO LIVE. LIVING TO SERVE.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Blue Springs FFA named one of 3 top chapters in the nation in the Building Our Communities Division of the National Chapter Award Program

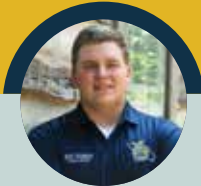
North Shelby FFA named National Champions in the Agronomy Career Development Event

2 FFA Members Top Individuals in National Career Development Events

Ennis Childs, Van Far FFA
Nursery/Landscape CDE

Luke Schwanke, North Shelby FFA
Agriculture Mechanics CDE

Agricultural Education Strategic Plan
completed and nears implementation



Sam Tummons State President | Missouri FFA Association

Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve." Though the FFA Motto was written years ago, these 12 words provide a foundation for how we, as FFA members, live every day. It is through this four-part motto that our organization is empowered to support students on their journey to becoming effective leaders within our organization and beyond.

Agricultural education in Missouri provides the opportunity for students to live out this motto through a hands-on model of learning. Students spend each day in agricultural education classes learning to do. From floral design to the greenhouse, animal science lab to the shop, before students can be successful in a hands-on environment, they must learn to do. Once students do that, they can put those skills into action. With hands-on practice, students can refine their skills. Doing to learn affords students the opportunity to definitively find what works for them and develop strategies they can use to help become more successful. In my mind, earning to live and living to serve start to work together in our motto. My experience in FFA has shown me time and time again that everything I do is a part of something much bigger than myself. I have found that I fulfill earning to live by using the skills I have attained in order to serve others. For years FFA members have used this motto to help promote premiere leadership, personal growth and career success in the state of Missouri. Yet, it all starts with agricultural education.

All agricultural education leadership programs receive support from the Missouri FFA Foundation, thanks to the generous support of sponsors and donors. For more information about supporting the Missouri FFA Foundation, please visit: <https://missouriffa.org/foundation>

FFA CAMP

"My favorite part of Camp was having the opportunity to serve as an officer, helping everyone else who was in attendance have a good time, meet new people and get the most out of their week."

Katrina Thomas
Paris FFA



HYPE ACADEMY

Helping Youth Prepare
for Excellence
Presented by the
Missouri Corn
Merchandising
Council



"What I enjoyed most about Missouri HYPE Academy was networking with young agriculturalists like myself, while also being able to put my advocacy skills into action in our state's capital."

Jack Norfleet
Mexico FFA



WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

"At WLC, I enjoyed learning about agriculture and leadership across the U.S., along with meeting new people and sharing many laughs."

Laina Bell
Macon County
R-IV FFA



HYMAX ACADEMY

Helping Youth Maximize their
Agricultural eXperience

"My favorite part about HYMAX was most definitely the small group project. I loved getting the chance to connect with my small group members and group leader, while also learning about the challenges of Rural Broadband."

Madalyn Arnett
Climax Springs FFA



LEAD

Chapter Officer Training

"My favorite part of LEAD was working with the other officers from my chapter to come up with new ideas for next year! We thought about what the purpose of our FFA chapter is and then set goals based on that."

Sarah Swanson
Lathrop FFA



2023-24 State FFA Officers

(L-R) Jacob King, Lilly Weber, Gabriel Todd, Kelsey Miller, Lynn Dyer, Jaden Kultgen, Karson Calvin, Caleb Simpson, Owen Neely, Colin McIntyre, Sam Tummmons, Kiley Mattson, Noah Graham, Maggie Stark, Wyatt Hendley, Isabella Hamner, and Claire Walker.

● THE FFA VISION

Students whose lives are impacted by FFA and agricultural education will achieve academic and personal growth, strengthen American agriculture and provide leadership to build healthy local communities, a strong nation and a sustainable world.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS



High
Individual
National Ag
Mechanics CDE

Luke Schwanke
North Shelby FFA

High Individual
National Nursery /
Landscape CDE

Ennis Childs
Van-Far FFA



1st Place
National
Agronomy
CDE

North Shelby FFA



"We base CDE teams on curriculum and the class the students are in. The national agronomy contest is challenging because it is so different from our state CDE. There are many more parts and more identification. It makes the national level more challenging."

—Harold Eckler
North Shelby FFA Advisor

***The Missouri FFA
Foundation would like
to thank the MFA
Incorporated
Charitable Foundation
for being the primary
funder of the
SAE Grant Program.***



SAE GRANTS

Every student enrolled in agricultural education in Missouri is required to complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). SAEs are hands-on work experience in the industry that happens in addition to classroom work.

CAREER EXPLORATION BEGINS WITH AN SAE

An SAE can often lead to students owning businesses and gaining entrepreneurial skills. Not every student has the financial means to launch a business. That's where the Missouri FFA Foundation plays a crucial role. In 2022, 26 Missouri FFA members received grants ranging from \$500-\$1,000 to start or expand their SAE projects.



Hayden Bremen

An SAE grant helped this Neosho FFA member grow his project by purchasing two additional bee hives. He plans to expand his SAE by teaching others about honey-bees and the environment.

Clay Hanson

This Nodaway-Holt FFA member focused his SAE grant on purchasing a bred cow. As he continues to grow his SAE, he's learning the importance of hard work and time management.



• BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Jack Keene, Columbia FFA | State Star in Agricultural Placement

Jack Keene was getting his feet wet working on a farm even before he joined his local FFA Chapter as a freshman. The 2023 State Star in Agricultural Placement winner, Keene now has his boots on the ground working both on the farm and in agribusiness.

Initially, Keene's employment experience began the summer before his freshman year of high school with Frank/

Hazelrigg Cattle Company, an Angus seedstock operation.

There, Keene gained valuable work experience and grew his responsibilities. At first, the Columbia FFA member was responsible only for fixing fence. He

has since added feeding and animal health care, genomic testing, creating feed rations, brush hogging and discing, and building fence to his resume. In addition to farm maintenance and cattle care, he also creates maps of the farm and fences and spreadsheets to track the cattle herd.

"During the summer of 2020, I worked at the Missouri Grown Bistro at the Missouri State Fair," Keene explains. "I began preparing for this placement experience by working during June and July as well as during the State Fair."

As part of his work experience, Keene was tasked with designing the Missouri Grown Bistro menu, making food orders, hiring staff and preparing the kitchen for the State

Fair. Food dishes were tested and perfected.

"We had to predict which dishes would be the most popular and how many customers to expect to make an accurate food order," Keene says. "It is always better to over order than under order."

In addition to his placement SAE, Keene has a small herd of Angus cattle of his own and manages a lawn business. He has served as chapter treasurer and chapter reporter. Keene was on the third-place Ag Mechanics Career Development Event team at this year's state convention, an event that also helped him earn third place individual honors.

Keene is a member of the National Honor Society and the Columbia Conservation Club, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and the Missouri and American Angus Associations.

This fall, Keene is majoring in animal science, with emphasis in genetics, at the University of Missouri-Columbia. In the future, he plans to pursue a career in cattle genetics while continuing to grow his own cattle operation.



• LESSONS LEARNED

Row crop and livestock operations combined to form Audrain County R-VI FFA member Justin Duenke's Diversified Ag Production SAE. The combination helped Duenke rise to the top in the award area as he was named the 2022 national winner.

"My SAE consists of 2,000 acres of row crop ground where we rotate corn, soybean and wheat," Duenke shares. "I also raise registered Haflinger horses, alfalfa and have a cow-calf operation. I have a small cow herd and a few show cattle, as well."

He set his sights on growth and had clear goals from the beginning of his SAE career.

"My main goal was to win state in my SAE category," he says. "I knew that I had a pretty special SAE and I wanted to make it very successful, so I spent a lot of time working on the farm, helping my dad and asking questions to understand why we did certain things the way we did."

These questions led to many challenges to overcome and lessons learned.

"The single greatest challenge I have faced with my SAE has been dealing with Missouri's winter weather," Duenke says. "Winters fluctuate in temperature and moisture, making calving season very difficult for our cows to battle the elements. It was heartbreaking to help pull a calf, then have it get down in the mud or catch pneumonia and lose it."

Duenke adds that the family farm is located on land that is very flat and without trees to use as wind breaks.

"The wind and blowing snow storms are deadly to the newborn baby calves," he says. "Combine this with the amount of snow and rain in central Missouri, the mud due to melting snow and very poor drainage also posed a huge challenge to calves in the winter months. In 2020, I was able to assist Duenke Farms in overcoming this challenge when both of our 60 x 300 foot long confinement barns were completed."

Concrete flooring eases cleaning and bedding removal when it becomes too damp. Additionally, calves are born under roof, which Duenke says has reduced death loss percentage in the first week of life by 90%. Feed loss has been reduced by 75%, he adds.

The greatest lesson he learned through these trials? Hard work pays off if you put in both the time and the effort.

NATIONAL WINNER

**Justin Duenke, Audrain Co. R-VI FFA
DIVERSIFIED AG
PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY**



PREMIER CHAPTER
GROWING LEADERS

Ashland

Missouri Chapter
Award Program



As we develop our program of activities, we strive to implement impactful events that will assist all members in developing leadership qualities, personal growth and career skills; that will give them the potential for career success and a strong future.

Providing our members with opportunities to grow as an individual and as a leader is a priority in our chapter so that when members graduate from our program they can be influential leaders in their home and community.

—Rebekah Hammett
Advisor, Ashland FFA



● ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE

Ashley Sjostrand — Ashland FFA | State Star Farmer

Ashley Sjostrand walks the walk in

her diversified Supervised Agricultural Experience. But the Ashland FFA member also talks the talk. In addition to her swine and poultry SAE, the recent high school graduate is certified in teaching Agriculture on the Move and serves as a team leader, instructing third grade students in about 10 different sectors of agriculture.

"I'm passionate about the agricultural industry and want to continue to be involved in

advocating for the importance of the industry throughout my career," Sjostrand explains.

Named the 2023 State Star Farmer, Sjostrand is completely hands-on in her SAE. Her SAE was born by purchasing two registered Duroc gilts to show at the Boone County Fair. The gilts were bred the following September, and then she purchased six sows from her parent's farrow-to-finish hog operation. In addition to her swine SAE, Ashley manages a poultry operation that includes laying hens and meat birds.



With 185 laying hens, Sjostrand also raises and processes more than 250 broiler chickens each year.

Learning the value of communication with businesses — such as feed suppliers, veterinarians and customers — has been key to the success of her SAE, Sjostrand says.

"I have a close relationship with my veterinarian which has helped me raise healthy animals and nutritious products for my customers," she notes. "I've also learned the importance of marketing my products to customers."

In high school, Sjostrand served as president of her FFA chapter and was the Area IV vice-president. In 2022, she was named the state's poultry production proficiency winner and received a gold rating at the national level. She's also participated in leadership activities, including Helping Youth Maximize their Agriculture Experience (HYMAX), Missouri Agribusiness Academy (MAbA), Helping Youth Prepare for Excellence (HYPE), State FFA Camp and the Washington Leadership Conference.

This fall, Sjostrand is attending the University of Missouri Columbia to obtain a degree in animal science with a minor in agribusiness. She also plans to earn a master's degree in livestock nutrition. Her career goals include being a livestock nutrition specialist while also continuing to be involved in her family's swine operation.



**BUILDING
COMMUNITIES**



17,300+

Service Hours

"This project was a great opportunity for us. While our FFA kids gained service learning experience, we were also able to support both early childhood literacy and agricultural awareness in our community.

—Chris Denham, Administrator
Hart Career Center



\$518,135

ECONOMIC
IMPACT

4,380

Volunteers

**Chapters
Receiving Grants**

48

123

**Chapters
Participating
in Service Activities**

Learning to do. Doing to Learn. Earning to Live. Living to Serve.



Personal and Professional Growth.
Strengthen Ag Leadership.
Foster Economic Growth.

● MISSOURI ADULT AG EDUCATION

- **2,947** adults enrolled in 2021-22.
- **23 schools** active Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives chapters in 2021-22.
State Membership: 453.
- Agriculture instructors in **38 schools** had part or all of their time scheduled for adult instruction in 2021-22.
- More than **150 farm families** enrolled in the Farm Business Management Analysis program.

● AGRICULTURE LITERACY: BRIDGING THE GAP

At the junior high and middle school level, Agricultural Literacy courses were offered in 2022-2023 to **16,345 seventh and eighth grade students in 263 schools.**



● MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

PAS CHAPTERS

Crowder College

Mineral Area College

Missouri State University-West Plains

Moberly Area Community College

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

Ozarks Technical Community College

St. Charles Community College

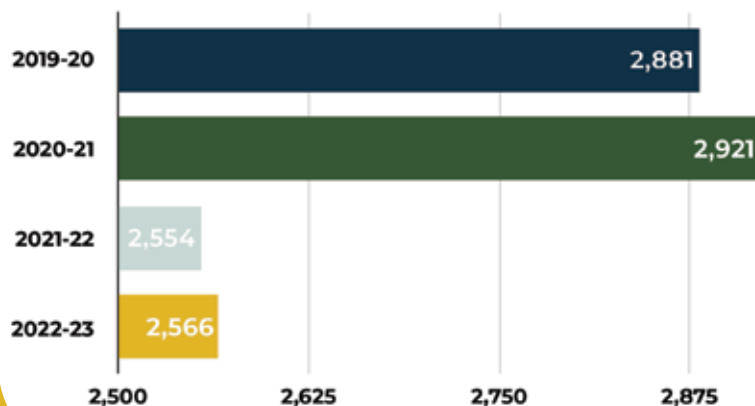
St. Louis Community College

State Fair Community College

State Technical College of Missouri

Three Rivers Community College

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT



**FINE-TUNED
SKILLS**

STUDENT-LED



**WORKPLACE
READY**

UNITING EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY IN AGRICULTURE

STATE PAS OFFICERS

President: Cooper Hamlin (SFCC)

Vice President: Maci Shaw (OTC)

Secretary: Brinkley Young (OTC)

Treasurer: Joshua Eckhart (NCMC)

Reporter: Kellen Hogenmiller (STCM)

Parliamentarian: Xander Metcalf (STCM)

Cooper Hamlin
National PAS Vice President



As a former FFA member, I understand how impactful and meaningful the organization is. Just as its mission statement affirms, FFA develops every member's potential for "premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education." However, what happens after high school? For many, FFA sets a clear path to go directly into the workforce, but what about those of us that decided to continue our passion for agriculture in a tech school or community college? Fortunately for us, there is a student-led collegiate organization that prides itself on taking this leadership, growth, and success to another level. An organization that assists its members in fine tuning these three aspects to a specific career and connecting them with professionals in that field. This organization is none other than the National Professional Agricultural Student Organization, otherwise known as PAS. PAS is a national organization with programs established in 13 states across the country. Missouri PAS exemplifies its motto: "Uniting Education and Industry in the Support of Agriculture." Student leaders of this organization work with businesses, sponsors, and industry partners to provide career fairs and tours. Being face to face with recruiters at these events exposed me to internship opportunities, out of state connections, and some members have even received job offers. Thanks to PAS I have improved my resume, discovered my interview style, made friends from around the country, and discovered where to apply my passion for this industry.

• WILD ABOUT AG

It's more than plows and sows. Sure, we know agriculture reaches beyond the farm, but what does that involvement look like in practice? Trent Dowell of the Gallatin FFA Chapter found his niche in the agricultural industry through wildlife production and management. His SAE is multi-faceted and filled with lessons of growth, earning top honors as the 2022 National Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency Winner.

"My SAE involves wildlife habitat management and DEER-A-MAX

mineral production," Dowell says. "I take raw products and grind them into a palatable mineral treat for deer to consume."

The mix of ingredients boosts the immune system, Dowell adds. Deer are also better able to fight off illnesses such as Blue Tongue and Chronic Wasting Disease, he says. Another bonus is that antler growth is positively impacted because of the increased calcium in the mineral.

In addition to mineral production, Dowell also operates a wildlife habitat management business. The majority of his customers

are hunters with leases that want wildlife habitat improved for the upcoming hunting season.

"I transform overgrown, vacant ground into an area that wildlife will use and thrive in," Dowell explains. "I also plant fruit and nut-producing trees to draw in and feed various species of wildlife."

Dowell plans to make a career out of his SAE experiences.

"My passion for wildlife has made each day at work incredibly enjoyable and in turn, my career path is set for me," he says. "I plan to attend college and focus on wildlife biology and business to help improve my growing business as my future career."

NATIONAL WINNER

Trenton Dowell, Gallatin
WILDLIFE PRODUCTION &
MANAGEMENT PROFICIENCY



• KNOWING THE NUMBERS

Pacey Cope — Audrain Co. R-VI FFA | State Star in Agribusiness

Pacey Cope knows the value of his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). He's run the numbers.

From pork to pumpkins, Cope's multi-faceted SAE helped him earn the State Star in Agribusiness award at the 2023 Missouri State FFA Convention.

With two small agribusinesses to manage, Cope Kids Pumpkins and Cope Kids Pork Sales, the young entrepreneur says his experiences have helped him accomplish three goals: being able to better talk to customers, accurately gauge when his pumpkin crop is ready for harvest and expand his acreage.

"I have become very good at talking to customers now about my products and answering any questions my customers have, from the pumpkin itself to how the crop is grown," Cope explains. "I am also able to determine the stage of growth a pumpkin is in and have been able to accurately pick pumpkins based on the hardness of their stems as well as their color and shape."

Cope says he expanded his pumpkin acreage from 9.5 in 2021

to 11 in 2022, allowing him to grow additional varieties. He also rented another 1.5 acres to further expand his operation into 15 different varieties.

Last year, I had the help of a local farmer who also grows pumpkins," Cope says. "He assisted me with seed selection and determining what would sell best. This year, I picked out my own seeds and decided what pumpkins would sell the best based off my prior knowledge."

Through Cope's business, Cope Kids Pork Sales, quality pork is offered to customers. Feeder pigs transition from production through the market phase of his operation.

"A normal market hog in the area sells for approximately \$150, but through marketing and services I provide, I'm able to sell each for about \$250, adding a value of about 67% to the animal," Cope explains.

In his local FFA chapter, Cope has served as treasurer. He's also competed at the state level in

meats evaluation and agriculture sales career development events. In addition, Cope was an area winner in Swine Production Proficiency and attended the Helping Youth Maximize their Agriculture Experience (HYMAX) Academy.

Through his involvement at the Hart Career Vo-Tech Center for welding, Cope competed at several competitions for the trade, sparking his interest in pursuing a career in welding. This winter, Cope plans to attend Eagle Welding School in Stockton, Missouri, to hone his skills before entering the workforce.



The Missouri FFA Foundation would like to thank the Missouri Farmers Care Drive to Feed Kids Mini-grant Program for the contribution that made it possible to fund these service projects.

Fourteen chapters received mini-grant funding: Carrollton, Cass Career Center, Grandview, Green Ridge, Koshkonong, La Monte, Mexico, Pettis Co., Pilot Grove, Pleasant Hill, Smithton, St. James, West Platte, and Winston.

Combined, these chapters represented more than 370 members who contributed in excess of 4,000 volunteer hours in various service projects and secured over \$13,000 in matching funds, which allowed them to donate greater than 41,000 meals to organizations throughout their communities.

LIVING TO SERVE GRANTS

Missouri FFA Foundation awarded 14 mini-grants to FFA chapters for service projects focused on addressing food insecurity in their local communities.



Pleasant Hill FFA

FFA members smoked and vacuum sealed pork loins while coordinating themed food drives with other student groups to secure the food needed by seven families during summer break.

Pilot Grove FFA

Mini-grant funds helped FFA members purchase meat, and then secure more than \$750 in matching funds to provide meal necessities for 17 families during the school's winter break.



• BUILDING BLUE SPRINGS

The last line of the FFA motto is “living to serve,” and members of the Blue Springs FFA Chapter are working hard to build up their community. Two specific projects centered around community service, helping the chapter become a 2022 National Building Communities Finalist. Both efforts focused on the betterment of their school and its students.

Increasing participation in environmental awareness was the focus of one project. The chapter worked to update the landscape in Blue Springs High School’s courtyard in collaboration with a local plant nursery, designing and constructing raised gardens, and teaching environmental curriculum to departments at the school.

“These events taught agricultural subjects, such as horticulture, and developed team work, communication and planning

skills that members can use in future careers,” says Morgan Payton, Blue Springs agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor.

Another chapter project was centered on developing a plan to share African American agricultural community through door designs, newsletters and weekly broadcasts. Chapter members used the focus to share agricultural history throughout FFA Week and Black History Month.

“Members who participated in creating and sending out the informational announcements and emails expanded their

knowledge on African American agricultural influencers,” Payton says. “The recipients of the information were able to increase their own historical agricultural appreciation and knowledge of the history of African American people in the National FFA Organization. This allowed for recipients and creators alike to better themselves and the well-being of others in the community.”



NATIONAL FINALIST
BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Blue Springs

National Chapter
Award Program

• DRIVING AG ED

A drive

for educating elementary students about the agricultural industry both locally and across the globe led Audrain County R-VI FFA member Emily Hoyt to develop a multi-faceted Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

“Freshmen year I was pushed to take charge of our chapter’s monthly Food for America program,” Hoyt says. “After doing that for one year and spending two weeks in

Europe, I decided to switch up the program to “Ag Around the World.”

Then, during Hoyt’s sophomore year, she also joined the Ag Ed on the Move Program through Missouri Farmers Care and began teaching curriculum and lessons to third grade students at a neighboring elementary school. She continued to do that until the COVID pandemic forced her to think outside the classroom. The result was “Little Farmers Learning More,” which Hoyt says took agricultural education beyond the traditional classroom setting.

“I created a no-cost virtual platform on Facebook for parents to join to sign

their students up to complete activities and post about their findings,” Hoyt explains. “The new platform integrated agriculture into the everyday lives of elementary students and allowed them to share what they learned with their families.”

Those efforts combined to not only further agricultural education in Hoyt’s community, but also ignite a deeper passion for sharing agriculture’s story.

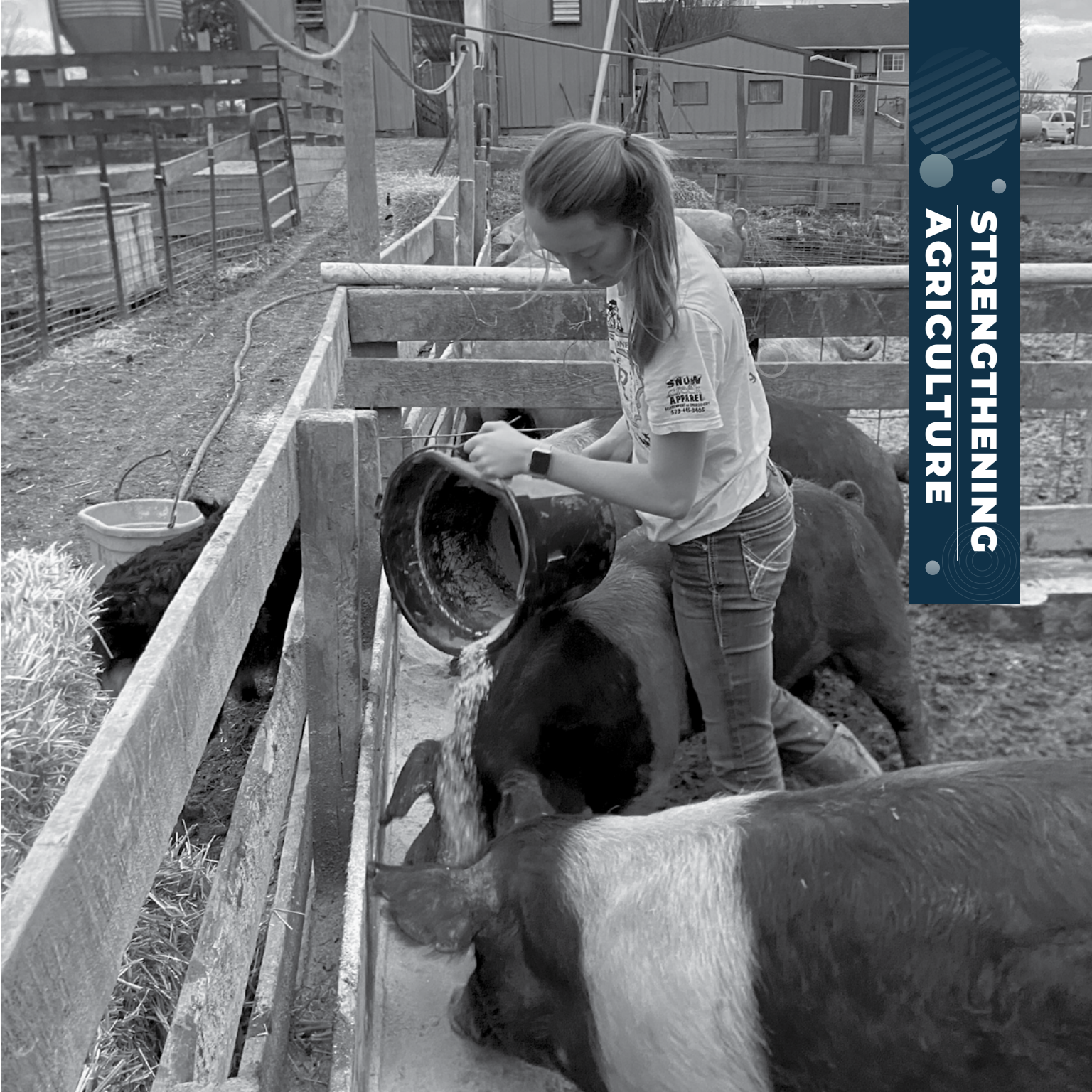
“Now, I look forward to furthering my passion when I become an agricultural education teacher, watch my own students grow, and find success in and out of my classroom.”



NATIONAL WINNER

Emily Hoyt, Audrain Co. R-VI

Agricultural Education Proficiency



•
STRENGTHENING
•
AGRICULTURE
•



Building Communities

Our community means so much to us, and we love to give back whenever possible. We wanted to find ways to say thanks to our teachers, provide some financial growth for our local businesses, and put our own spin on a “Pink Out” Basketball Game. Any time we think “community first,” our program grows!

—Josh Bondy
Advisor, Paris FFA

PREMIER CHAPTER

Paris

Missouri Chapter
Award Program



Strengthening Agriculture

We really wanted to focus our Strengthening Agriculture activities in our Elementry School. Through both Sweet Reads and Doors of Agriculture, we wanted to bring agriculture down to the basic level, helping our younger members make the connection with Missouri ag commodities and how they impact their daily lives. Our teachers, elementry students and those community members who visit the buildings loved seeing agricultural education at all levels of Paris R-II.

—Josh Bondy
Advisor, Paris FFA

● HIGH SCHOOL AG EDUCATION GRADUATE PLACEMENT

High school
agricultural
education
graduates
in 2021.



- 2% not employed
- < 1% not available for employment
- < 3% status unknown

Employed



In agriculture
related fields



In other areas



Military



In non-agriculture
related fields



In other areas



In agriculture



Continuing
Education



● PASSION FOR PLANTS

A passion

for plants drove Trenton Jones of the Higginsville FFA Chapter to pursue diversified horticulture, both working for a greenhouse and starting a business of his own.

"My SAE was in the area of Diversified Horticulture placement and entrepreneurship where I worked for a Greenhouse at C&M Farms, as well as owning my own business, Trent's Tropicals," Jones says. "I sold houseplants and tropical plants at my location in Higginsville as well as online."

He focused on learning more about the industry to fuel his business's growth.

"Whenever I first started working at C&M Farms, I had not taken a greenhouse course yet through my high school, so any knowledge I had was just from what I had picked up from others as well as my love of plants," Jones says. "There were many days and weeks where I would work with my supervisor and boss to learn about the plants we offered, their needs, prices, as well as the number we had in stock. I spent hours going through the greenhouse aisle by aisle to learn every plant."

Growing his business came with plenty of challenges, including finding a space big enough to accommodate expanding needs.

"I ended up renting space from C&M in order to expand and grow my business," he notes.

While he learned a lot about the horticulture industry, Jones gained just as many skills in business.

Jones concludes, "The biggest lesson I learned with my SAE was time and money management."



NATIONAL WINNER

Trenton Jones, Higginsville

Diversified Horticulture Proficiency

• SCIENCE IMPACTS YIELD

AYREN RAPP, NORTHEAST VERNON CO. | STATE STAR IN AGRISCIENCE

Supervised

Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs aim to provide FFA members with real-world experience in the ag industry. The 2023 State Star in Agriscience, Ayren Rapp, gained just that when she acted upon a curiosity, creating an impressive plant systems SAE.

A member of the Northeast Vernon County FFA Chapter, Rapp has a diversified SAE. At its base, Rapp works on her family farm raising 13 acres of her own crops. She's also employed at a grain elevator and chemical-fertilizer application business. Her time on the family farm has taught Rapp to innovate, research and test products and practices within her operation.

"My family is always trying to find ways to improve yields in the most cost-efficient way," she explains. "My brother has tested different fertilizers and foliar fertilizers on our crops. We knew from previous tests foliar fertilizer adds bushels to the yield. So, I decided I wanted to research two different

brands on my soybeans that would hopefully benefit my yield."

Within her plant systems SAE, Rapp conducted a trial on eight acres of soybeans, testing the effectiveness of VersaMax Soybean and MFA Gold Advantage foliar fertilizers. The results will impact

her family's farming practices for years to come.

"I saw an increase in

more per acre with VersaMax. The VersaMax foliar was cheaper and yielded more effectively."

As with any research project, Rapp learned a thing or two along the way, including how a control strip would have helped elevate results when comparing harvest data.

Rapp will study agronomy or precision agriculture in the future, bringing her studies and research findings back home to her family farm to strengthen and diversify their operation for many years to come.



yield compared to fields my parents did not apply foliar on," Rapp says. "In my trial, four acres were sprayed with Gold Advantage foliar, which resulted in 44.54 bushels per acre. The other four acres treated with VersaMax foliar yielded 45.21 bushels per acre. After figuring each foliar yield and subtracting my expenses, I found that I was profiting \$8.18





**Hands-on
Learning**

IN ACTION

Ash Grove Ag Education Department



**Work-Ready
Skills**

"Through the opportunities provided in our ag education program, I strive to create positive relationships that will serve as a foundation for helping students grow into better versions of themselves — from character and leadership abilities to critical thinking skills and work ethic."

—Nathan Isakson, Agriculture Instructor, Ash Grove



**Classroom
Instruction**



Community Service



The Missouri FFA Foundation would like to thank MFA Foundation for being a presenting sponsor of the Missouri Teach Ag program.

"No other profession do you get to know your students at such an impactful level and provide an education, not only in agriculture, but also in life lessons."

—Erica Hart, Agriculture Instructor, Kearney

MISSOURI VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

State & Region IV NAAE Winner

Early Career Teacher: **Rylyn Small, East Prairie**

State & Region IV NAAE Winner

Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship:

Lily Grant, Nichols Career Center, Jefferson City

Ideas Unlimited

Brooke Swindler, Norborne

Jess Clonts Memorial Scholarship

Abby Barron, Salisbury

Lifetime Achievement

David Higgins, DESE

Outstanding Ag Educator

Jason Vandivort, Elsberry

Outstanding Horticulture Program

Sherry Byram, Owensville

Outstanding Secondary Program

California

Outstanding Teacher Mentor

Mary Leykamp, Montgomery Co.

Teach Ag Ambassadors

College of the Ozarks
Janella Scott
Nicole South

Missouri State
Colin Boyd
Abigail Tavenner

Northwest Missouri State
Jenna Stark
Landon White

Southeast Missouri State
Katelyn Young
Zach Link

University of Central Missouri
Lindsey Ball
Kailey Narron

University of Missouri
Emily Hoyt
Abby Miller

Missouri Teach Ag program is funded in part by CHS Foundation and MVATA.

Ag Education Employability Story

State Average Salary **\$59,335**

New Teachers in State **30**

Temporary or Other
Certifications **20**

Re-entering the Profession **14**

Teachers Coming from
Out of State **30**

The Missouri FFA Foundation would like to thank the Google Foundation, Growing America's Farmers, and the Rural King Foundation for being the primary supporters of the 2023 Learning by Doing Grant Program.

LEARNING BY DOING GRANTS

The LBD Classroom Grant Program awards up to \$500 to enhance instruction in production agriculture, agribusiness, or other rural lifestyle areas or up to \$1,000 to enhance classroom technology.

Montgomery County R-II

A LBD classroom grant helped agriculture teachers purchase tools and equipment needed to control invasive species. During the 2023-24 school year, Ag II students will learn how to operate the new equipment and begin controlling invasive species on the school's nature trail.



Northwest High School

Growth in enrollment prompted Northwest's agriculture instructor to use LBD classroom grant funds to purchase utensils and a meat smoker for the school's meats lab. The grant also helps the ag education department increase classroom funding by enhancing its catering services to the community.



GROW THE *Legacy*

This spring, I pulled together a group of American Family Agents to be first time sponsors of the Missouri FFA Foundation. The response I received from agents when asking them to be a part of a sponsorship collective was heartwarming. Missouri agriculture education and FFA do an amazing job giving our kids the tools needed to be successful in life whether they are in a rural or urban setting. American Family Insurance is a national sponsor of FFA and many of our agents are supporters at the local level; however, we also wanted to be involved as sponsors at the statewide level because we believe strongly in the future of youth throughout our state. There are statewide activities that provide crucial leadership development and industry skills to our youth that are only possible because of the funding the Missouri FFA Foundation secures.



All the American Family Agents that participated with the Missouri FFA Foundation this year felt the recognition we received for our involvement was outstanding! We are excited to continue our support and look forward to being even more involved in the future.

I would encourage any company or individual to support the Missouri FFA Foundation. You'll be glad you did.

Karen Chaney
American Family Insurance
Cameron, Missouri

Find Out More or Donate at:

missouriffafoundation.org

Contact Us at:

heather@missouriffa.org



MISSOURI FFA
Foundation

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Department of Elementary
& Secondary Education



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Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture education and natural resources in advancing personal and global well-being.

